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BOOK REVIEWS

BLACK ON BANKRUPTCY, by Henry Campbell Black. (Kansas City: Vernon Law Book Company, 1922. Two Volumes.)

A masterful embellishment and correlation of the Bankruptcy Act is Mr. Black's latest contribution to legal bibliography in the form of a treatise on the law and practice of bankruptcy. The bare frame of the statute, consisting of an outline of working principles, has at times appeared to be disconnected, disjointed, and its continuity broken with seemingly inexplicable gaps, but with a careful application of the treatment prescribed by the courts plus a keen understanding of its functions the author of *Black on Bankruptcy* presents the law, which began with 34 & 35 Henry VIII., ch. 4, in a well rounded, polished, and composite whole.

In the text the subjects are handled in the order they are arranged in the Act, but by means of pertinent and cumulative references to the revelant, but scattered, sections of the statute, a certain coherent and smooth contextual relation of the whole is effected which could not be attained by a mere perusal of the law. We find many hints and apposite illustrations of the practice used in applying the Act, which, in turn, are explanatory, in that they present the theory in a more concrete form.

Especial attention is directed to Chapter V., wherein the powers and duties of the referee are detailed with comprehensiveness and accuracy. Continuing in this chapter, the reader perceives the nice distinctions of definition, upon which depend the powers of this officer peculiar to the bankruptcy court. There is to be found an enumeration of the instances of the Act's discrimination and allocation of the powers of the "court" as meaning the "judge" or "referee".

The appendix contains the bankruptcy law of 1898, the General Orders and Forms in Bankruptcy, and the bankruptcy law of 1867. The brief marginal headings beside the sections of the present act enable the topics of the law to be readily found.

It is with a feeling of satisfaction that we welcome the reappearance of Mr. Black in the field of bankruptcy, for he again comes, not with a mere tabulation and paraphrase of authorities, but with a fresh and original style of expression of his sound interpretations of "An Act Against Such Persons As Do Make Bankrupts."

ALBERT V. BRYAN.

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THE EQUITY PLEADING AND PRACTICE AND THE FEDERAL EQUITY RULES. By William Minor Lile. (University of Virginia: Anderson Brothers, 1922, pp. 364.)

After conceding to the case system of teaching law all that is claimed for it by its most ardent advocates we proceed to charge it with being